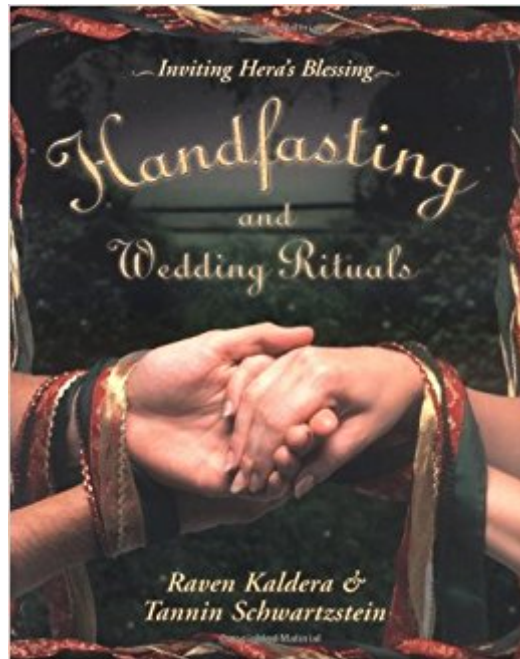




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# Handfasting And Wedding Rituals: Welcoming Hera's Blessing



## Synopsis

Handfasting and Wedding Rituals has everything you need to plan the perfect Pagan wedding. You'll find advice and examples to help you with basic wedding planning, writing vows, and ritual construction, along with practical tips and great ideas about everything from low-cost wedding favors to candle and bonfire safety. Handfasting and Wedding Rituals also includes sixteen full rites honoring a wide variety of Pagan traditions. Rituals in their full form can be used exactly as printed or modified to fit your needs. Each rite is categorized as level one, two, or three depending on their level of overt Pagan content and degree of participation expected from your guests.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Raven Kaldera is a pagan priest, intersex transgender activist, parent, [astrologer](#), musician, homesteader, and the author of "Hermaphrodeities: The Transgender Spirituality Workbook" (XLibris Press). He is the founder and leader of the Pagan Kingdom of Asphodel, and the Asphodel [Pagan Choir](#). He has been a neo-pagan since the age of 14, when he was converted by a "fam-trad" teen on a date. Since then, he's been through half a dozen traditions, including Gardnerian, Dianic, and granola paganism, Umbanda, Heithnir, and the Peasant Tradition. He is currently happily married to artist and eco-experimentalist Bella Kaldera, and they have founded the Institute for Heritage Skills. ...'Tis an ill wind that blows no minds.' Contrary to popular legend, Tannin was not born in a log cabin in Springfield Illinois. She did, however, spend her entire childhood living on the Jersey Shore. It is in this notably non-New Age environment that her interest

in Pagan/Occult matters began. Over the past 15 years, she has dedicated a significant part of her life in pursuit of various spiritual arts privately and professionally. Tannin has studied diverse practices and paths such as Gi Gong, Shamanistic energy techniques, Gnosticism, Afro-Caribbean religions, and even a pinch of Ceremonial Magick. Before she opened Bones and Flowers in the of 1997, she served as "Madame Espiritual" to two different Worcester Botanicas, a spiritual counselor in a New Age shop, as well as making countless house calls. At present, the proprietor of Worcester's only occult specialty store is also a crafter in diverse media ,and a legally ordained minister. ~

chapter 1 pagan couples As Pagan clergy people, one of the great parts of our community service work is marrying people. It has been our pleasure and duty to bear witness to couples' commitment to one another, their faces shining with joy and love, before the gods and their community. However, the days or months leading up to that point had often been fraught with a good deal of trial and tribulation for Neopagan couples who wanted to write their own ceremonies and had very little to choose from. There were certainly a number of handfasting rituals in the books of the Neopagan "old masters," and many of those had some truly beautiful lines, but they generally tended toward the same format. We found that the needs of modern Neopagan couples were too varied to resort to one-size-fits-all wedding ceremonies. Some were deep in the broom closet and wanted a nondenominational" ritual that had Pagan overtones but could pass in front of intolerant non-Pagan family members. Some wanted it openly Pagan, but light-a ceremony that reasonably tolerant non-Pagan guests would find inoffensive and not uncomfortable. Others wanted it Pagan all the way, but with a theme other than the "traditional" format- combining it with semihistorical aesthetics, Tolkien elves, Native American words, science fiction, fantasy faeries, or any number of other interesting ideas. In some cases, one partner was Pagan and the other practiced a different religion that they wanted incorporated into the ritual. These couples usually felt that it would be easier to incorporate Jewish or Christian imagery into a ceremony performed by a Pagan clergy person than to attempt to push Pagan ritual into a more conservative church or temple structure, and they needed inspiration. Then there was the problem of nontraditional marriages. Although queer weddings are certainly not disallowed in our faith, there was little attempt to create ceremonies for nonheterosexual couples (one exception to the former was Z. Budapest's lesbian wedding tryst in The Holy Book of Women's Mysteries), and none at all for polyamorous group-weddings. We've found quite a few books on the market that contained build-your-own wedding materials-pieces of texts and invocations-but they were all geared toward a Judeo-Christian world. It can feel

unsatisfying for many couples to simply change "God" to "Goddess" half the time, and go from there. We have had couples turn to us confused and frustrated when they were told they would, in essence, have to choose from a few similarly formatted rituals or create their own from scratch. "I asked the High Priestess who was going to perform our ceremony if there was a reference book we could buy on the subject, and she laughed!" was one dejected groom-to-be's comment. Handfasting and Wedding Rituals is that reference book. Even with all the rituals -whole and in pieces-that you'll find in here, nothing may suit you exactly. That's all right. Feel free to mix and match, pull out a vow here or a circle casting there. Maybe only a few lines may inspire you, but if they spark you to write the words that you really need, then this book has done its job. You will find all the rituals and ritual segments in this book labeled with level 1, level 2, or level 3. This denotes the level of obvious Pagan content. A level 1 ritual can be performed in front of non-Pagans to whom you do not wish to explain your religion. These rituals are a way to incorporate subtle Pagan aesthetics into your wedding and still be "stealth," if that is what you require. No deity names are invoked in these rituals, and they can be passed off as fantasy or folk tradition. Level 2 rituals are "Pagan Lite

It was informative and helpful. For a novice of hand fasting, it helped me explore many options and rituals in a well ordered manner with plenty of real examples. Plenty of additional information about flowers, incense, anointing oils and other items that may be included in a ceremony.

My fiancé and I are non-pagan wishing to incorporate this ritual into our ceremony. This is important to note up front, because the level of usefulness of this book does depend on what you're looking for. We were looking for instruction on constructing this ritual in a respecting way for its tradition and respecting who we are as a couple. To us, there were a couple of useful PAGES in this book. We found a very lovely Level 1 vow that we will use (and that has saved us from searching through countless other books to find our vows or writing them....so that was extremely useful). We also decided to do a very subtle level 1 call to the elements/quarters (poetic). It's beautiful, and very doubtful that anyone will recognize it. We're going to use the Maid of Honor, Best Man, Bride, Groom, and Officiant for this. We're Unitarian, and because of this, we have at our disposal the whole host of beautiful wedding traditions. We're not 'locked into' any one particular rite. We're going to adapt what we use into our Chalice lighting (a rite that happens at the beginning of each Unitarian service, and we would like at our wedding). That being said: I was looking for the meanings of the cords rather than the ceremonies for Pagan - Catholic marriage. The authors have clearly put

a lot into this work and making a wonderful pagan wedding reference. But if you're not pagan (or neopagan), much of what they are offering is not going to work in your slightly non-traditional non-pagan wedding ceremony. Understand you'll be using only a few pages of this reference, and be good with that. I will also grant: The pages you use will be VERY valuable to you.

Explains everything you need to know. Having participated in this ritual myself, I recommend this to everyone, it would cut down on the divorce rate, especially in the U.S.

This book is a must have for any member of the pagan clergy, anyone looking to plan, have or take part in a pagan handfasting or wedding ceremony. It is well written, with pointers, options, and full ceremonies for your use. I highly recommend Handfasting for anyone even remotely interested in the topic.

Love it Exactly what I was looking for

Wonderfully diverse book that even marks the rituals in level of overt pagan nature. Level 1 = closet pagan appropriate, Level 3 = openly pagan with invocations etc. Wonderful reference for clergy who may need to wed same sex couples, transgender couples, druids, etc. Very very good book and an excellent addition to reference materials for ritual planning. Also great for a newcomer to pagan weddings and handfastings. Great for an individual planning their own ritual. All together awesome!

I previously bought a physical copy, but loaned it to a friend and never got it back. It is a good book though, so I did not mind buying it again in digital form. I do wish it had more of a how-to aspect, but the supplied information and examples are still good reference.

Best handfasting book I've run across. Beautiful and romantic rituals for straight and gay unions and interfaith ceremonies. Highly recommended.

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